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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Tirana Airfield

RETURN 1

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 6 February 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 & SKETCHES on ditto

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. The Tirana (QG 34) airfield is located at the western edge of the city, just south of the highway to Durrës. The installation measured 1,500 meters from east to west and 1,000 meters from north to south.
2. The field, which was in good condition, had a runway 50 to 60 meters wide and a taxiway 30 meters wide. There was a three-story administration building with a wind cone, and one hangar of about 30x30 meters. Other installations at the field were not known.
3. Three biplanes, allegedly the only Albanian planes in the country, were stationed at the field.
4. The field, which measured about 1,000 meters square, had a concrete runway about 300 meters long, and a concrete taxiway 15x300 meters extending in front of the buildings on the northern edge of the field. The installation had a two-story administration building 15x30 meters and two hangars, each of them 20x50 meters. One of the hangars was damaged and had no roof. The grass landing field was in good condition. Construction or enlargement work was not seen.
5. Three biplanes, which flew only occasionally, were permanently stationed at the field. One plane was marked with a black-red rectangle with an eagle on it; another one with a red cross while the third plane bore the markings of the UENRA. A twin-engine Hungarian commercial plane would land at the field on Wednesdays and Sundays about 11:30 a.m., even in bad weather. This plane was marked by a red-white-green rectangle on the tail assembly. After staying at the field for one hour, the plane would take-off again. Most of the passengers were Soviet officers, the remainder civilians. Twin-engine planes would land at the field at irregular intervals. These planes were marked on the tail with a red Soviet star, or a red rectangle with a multi-digit number in it. The planes were believed to be Soviet courier aircraft, for they took off again after a short stay.

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6. Individual Albanian officers with silver wings on the left-hand side of their uniforms and on their service caps were noticed at the field. They wore blue uniforms. Air force M were never seen.
7. Sketches showing the location and layout of the Tirana airfield were prepared. *

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2 Annexes: sketches on ditto

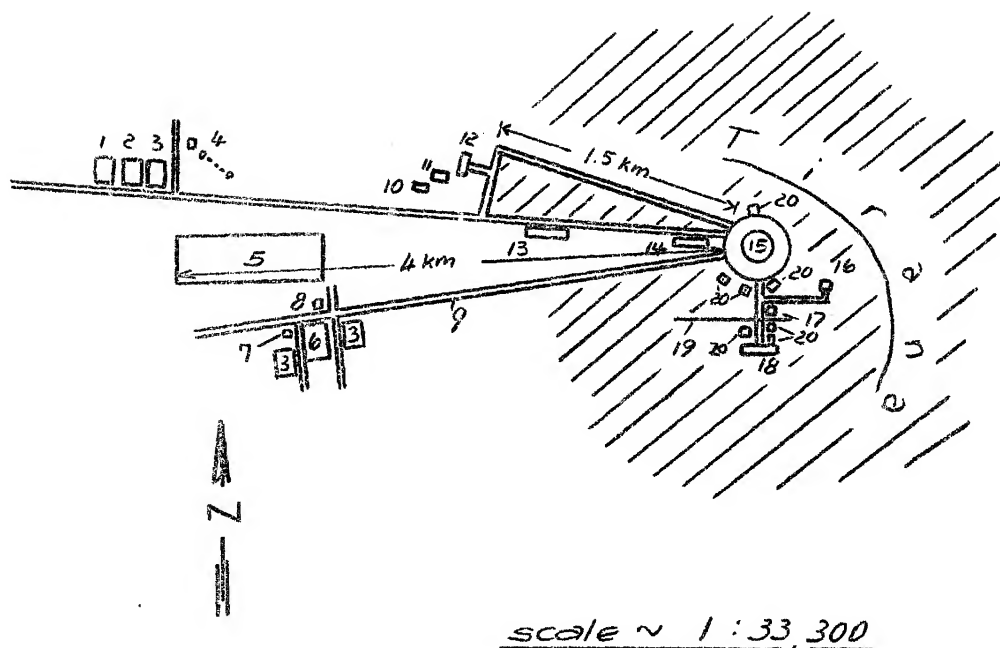
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Location Sketch of the Tirana Airfield



Legend:

- 1 Tank barracks
- 2 Motor vehicle repair shop
- 3 Infantry barracks
- 4 Radio station with two towers
- 5 Airfield
- 6 Artillery barracks
- 7 Furniture plant
- 8 Furniture plant, from January 1945 to January 1950 PW camp
- 9 Kawsia Street
- 10 Technical college
- 11 Barracks installation
- 12 Burgerie Prison
- 13 Headquarters of the Soviet Military Mission
- 14 Albanian military post detachment
- 15 Skanderbek Square
- 16 PW camp up to January 1945
- 17 Daiti Hotel for diplomats
- 18 Albanian army corps headquarters
- 19 New canal; further course unknown
- 20 Various ministries

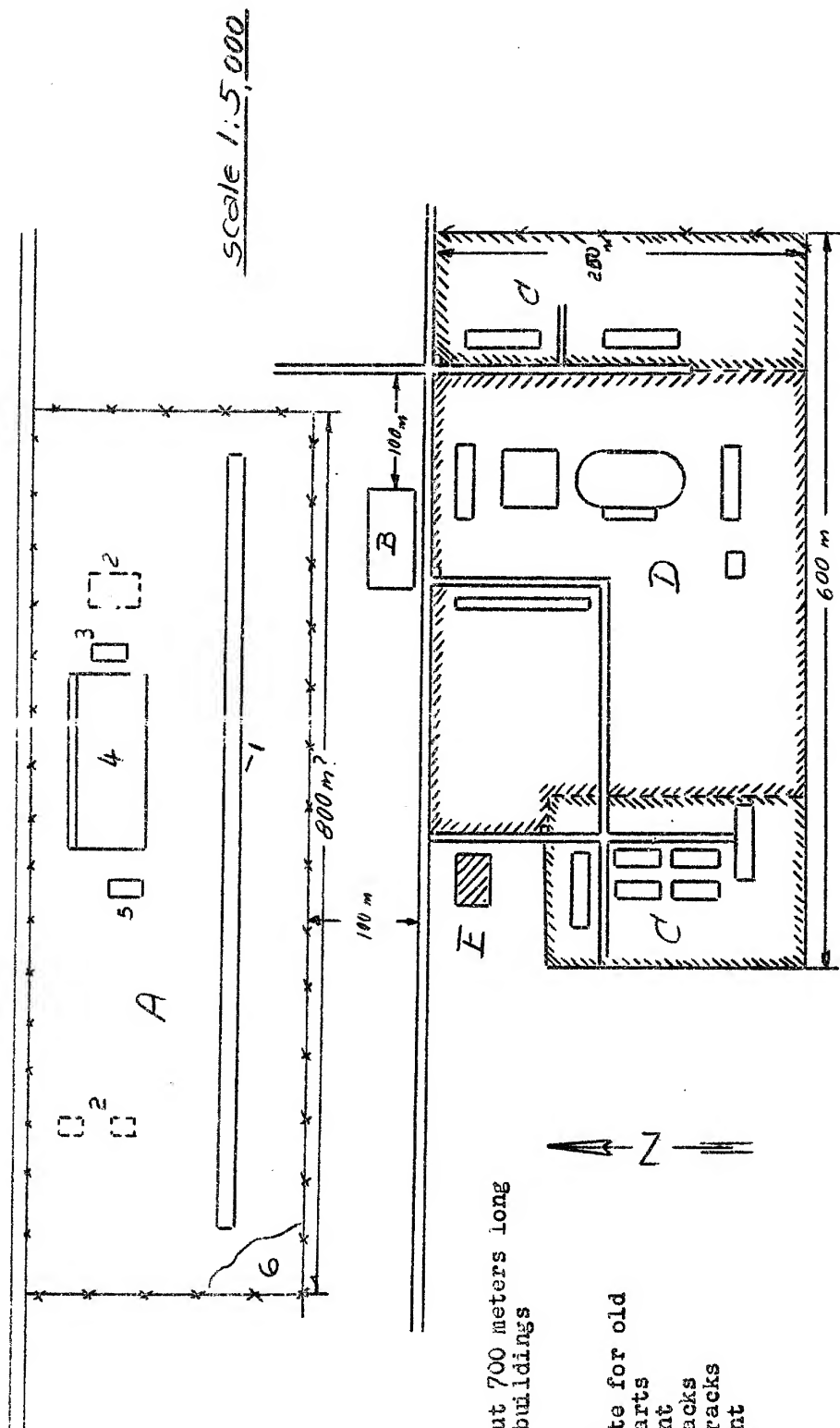
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Layout Sketch of the Tirana Airfield



Legend:

- A Airfield
- 1 Runway about 700 meters long
- 2 Destroyed buildings
- 3 Kitchen
- 4 Hangar
- 5 Restaurant
- 6 Storage site for old aircraft parts
- C Furniture plant
- D Infantry barracks
- E Artillery barracks
- F Furniture plant

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